



ROADS

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March 13, 1998

Lajes Field, Azores

www.lajes.af.mil/pa/65thpa.htm

CROSS

U.S. Air
Force
CORE
VALUES



• Integrity
First

• Service
Before
Self

• Excel-
lence
In All
We Do



Photo/Guido Melo

TSgt. Gregory "Stoney" Box, 65th Communications Squadron, tries on his new stripes with some help from his mother, Mary. Box was promoted Tuesday under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program.

Communications sergeant gets instant promotion

SSgt. Rosaire Bushey
Editor

"I was numb."

An odd reaction, perhaps for someone who has just been promoted to technical sergeant under the stripes for exceptional performers program, but understandable.

Gregory "Stoney" Box had just returned from the dentist and his mouth was puffy and numb when he was presented his new stripes.

"We were gathered together because the wing commander, (Col. Rod Gibson) was presenting a pass to one of our troops who scored well on his career development course end of course exam," Box said. "After, he asked my mother if

she'd like to present the new uniform." The colonel was presenting the stripe on behalf of Lt. Gen. Phillip Ford, 8th Air Force Commander who told Gibson he wanted to be able to present the stripe in person but, unfortunately, was unable to make the trip to Lajes.

When Box turned, his mother, Mary, presented him a new shirt with E-6 stripes attached.

"I was shocked and surprised but it felt great," he said.

Box said his mother is here because his father passed away recently and he's trying to get her dependent status.

"I was really impressed by how everyone, especially the higher ranking officers helped out and got me involved in the process," Mary Box said. "Civilians don't realize how much family sup-

Six members promoted to E-8

The following people were notified Wednesday of their selection to senior master sergeant:

65th Civil Engineer Squadron — **Anthony Bryant, Charles Clampit and Daniel Rohrbach**

65th Operations Support Squadron — **Brian Evans and Bobby McAlexander**

65th Medical Group — **John Dittig**

Senior NCOs selected for academy

The following senior NCOs have been selected to attend the Senior NCO Academy.

MSgt. Barbara Gill, 65th Comptroller Flight; **MSgt. Leslie Keefer**, 65th Supply Squadron; **MSgt. Ted Medina**, Detachment 6, Air Force News; and **MSgt. Robert Pleasanton**, 629th Air Mobility Support Squadron.

The following people were selected as alternates for the Senior NCO Academy.

MSgt. Rhonda Addis and **MSgt. Thomas Harmon**, 65th Supply Squadron; **MSgt. James Brown Jr.**, 65th Communications Squadron; **MSgt. Gregory Rogers** and **MSgt. James Williams**, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron; and **MSgt. Phillip Topper**, 629th Air Mobility Support Squadron.

port people in the service receive. I wish people outside would learn a lesson in life from watching people on base in how they support each other."

Mrs. Box said she was extremely proud of her son. "I wish my husband could have been here to see this, but I know he was watching," she said.

**TEAM LAJES — PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST --
BOTH OUR VISITORS, AND OURSELVES**



TRICARE Prime available locally

TSgt. Athanasia Mellas
NCOIC of Beneficiary Services

The Department of Defense offers its TRICARE Prime health care option to uniformed services families stationed here.

When deciding how to obtain health care through the military's system for your family, you have two choices on Terceira: TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Standard.

Prime is a voluntary health maintenance organization (HMO)-type option. Active-duty members are automatically enrolled while active-duty family members make a decision to enroll. If you decide to get your care through Prime, you are enrolled for a year at a time at no cost. You are provided a primary care manager who takes charge of your medical care.

Covered services will be like TRICARE Standard, plus more preventive and primary care services not covered under TRICARE Standard. There are no costs involved with outpatient or inpatient visits while stationed at Lajes.

At this time, TRICARE Prime is not available for retirees.

On the other hand, Prime may not be your best bet if you have other health insurance



that's your primary coverage. In such a case, Prime will only pay after your other insurance has paid for your civilian health care.

If you discontinue your other health insurance when you enroll in Prime and later become ineligible for Prime, you might have difficulty getting your other insurance back.

For more information, call Ext. 23615.

Lajes Team Player



SrA. Sachiko D. Jones

Unit - 65th Services Division

DEROS - Jan. 12, 2000

How do you contribute to the Team

Lajes mission - By providing meals to aircrews and others at the flight kitchen.

Like least about Lajes - No matter how far you travel, you're still in the Azores.

Like most about Lajes - The experience of a different culture.



police blotter

The police blotters are true incidents affecting members of the Lajes community for the period of March 3 to Monday

DAMAGE TO GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

MarCH 4 — On-base/secured. Person(s) unknown broke into two coin operated machines. It is unknown if the machines contained any currency.

March 5 — On-base/secured. Person(s) unknown damaged the windows to several GOVs.

March 9 — On-base/secured. Person(s) unknown kicked a room door open, causing damage to the door and the door lock.

LARCENY

March 3 — Theft of private property/Beira Mar/secured. Person(s) unknown broke into a member's vehicle and stole various pieces of personal items.

March 9 — Theft of private property/off-base/secured. Person(s) unknown broke into a GOV and stole several pieces of government equipment.

<u>Incident</u>	<u>March 3 - 9</u>	<u>98 CYTD</u>
Assaults	0	2
Domestic assaults	0	1
Burglary	0	2
B&E/Sheds	0	5
B&E/Gov't Bldgs	0	14
Larceny	2	22
Vehicle accidents	0	17
DUI	0	0
Vandalism	3	11

Sorties

March 2 - 8

ACC - 2
DOD - 9

AMC - 28
ALLIED - 20

DUI

Last DUI - Sept. 15
Days without a
DUI - 179

*The Next Strong Cajun is due
Thursday*



Laundry closed for move

The laundry and dry cleaning services will be closed **March 23 through April 1**. Reduced laundry services will continue in T-331 until March 23.

Laundry services are available in Angra - Alvacor, Rua de S. Pedro 178, Ext. 22099; and La Suprema, Rua S. Espirito No. 64/66, Ext. 23450.

Full dry cleaning and laundry service will begin in Bldg. T-207 April 1. For more information call Ext. 24283.

UMD offers Term 4 classes

The University of Maryland will begin registration for Term 4 Monday through March 27. The class dates will be from March 30 to May 22. All classes are held in Bldg. T-400.

The following classes will be held this term:

Monday through Thursday - noon to 1:15 p.m. — PORT 112 - Elementary Portuguese

Monday through Thursday - 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. — MATH 100 - Transitional mathematics; CMIS 140 - Programming using C++; and BMGT 378 - Legal environments of business (This class begins March 25)

Monday and Wednesday - 6:45 to 9:45 p.m. — PORT 115 - Intermediate Portuguese;

ECON 203 - Principles of economics - micro; and GVPT - International political relations

Tuesday and Thursday - 6:45 to 9:45 p.m. — ENGL 101 - Introduction to writing; BMGT 496 - Business ethics and society; and MUSC 130 - Survey of music literature

SEMINARS

April 18 and 19 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — CAPP 100E - Introduction to microcomputers: networks and communication

April 25 and 26 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — UCSP 198/398 - Marriage and the law

May 2 and 3 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — MGST 198 - Interviewing skills

Joint staff celebrates 45 years

U.S. Forces Azores Joint Staff. A Joint Team Fostering Access and Promoting Stability in Support of U.S. and Allied Interests and Maximizing the Capability of Forces in or Assigned to our Area of Responsibility.

SSgt. James Reinhardt
Wing historian

On Monday, the U.S. Forces Azores will celebrate their 45th anniversary providing joint service to Lajes Field and cooperation with our Portuguese host.

In 1953, the Azores Air Transport Station, as Lajes Field was referred to then, was a busy base. The 1605th Air Base Group reorganized to wing status and U.S. forces presence in the Azores was growing.

Base construction was ever present as forces were moving out of the temporary buildings built 11 years before by British and American forces during World War II. The 501st Transportation Battalion was settling in at the port.

In 1953 the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Command, appointed the 1605th Air Base Wing commander, Col. Harold Smith commander over all U.S. Forces within the Azores assuming the dual-hatted role as COMUSFORAZ and the wing commander.

This gave the U.S. Forces Azores com-

mander responsibility for all U.S. military forces within the region. It also made him the local U.S. representative for dealing with local activities in the Azores.

But the commander could not do this alone, and a small staff grew around the commander comprised of Navy, Army and Air Force personnel.

Through these 45 years the basic duties of U.S. FORAZ has remained virtually unchanged. This subordinate unified command has been involved in all U.S. military exercises that came through Lajes such as REFORGER and Northern Viking. Also, U.S. FORAZ took an important role in many of the world's most critical junctions in history such as the 1958 Peace Accord in Lebanon, the 1961 evacuation of Congo refugees, the 1973 Yom Kippur War and more recently Desert Shield and Storm and Operation Restore Hope. The U.S. FORAZ staff played a role in these events by coordinating activities with our Portuguese host, and by providing logistics and operational support to U.S. forces.

OSI offers retraining opportunities

SSgt. Jose Cavazos
Information manager

Have you ever considered applying for a Special Agent position with the AFOSI?

Special investigative duty is a wonderful opportunity to serve the Air Force, DoD, and your nation by being a key member of a high performance investigative team.

Special agents provide critical investigative services to commanders worldwide in the following areas: major felony crimes, fraud, computer crime, environmental crime, foreign intelligence, antiterrorism/force protection, and other major criminal threats.

Like the Air Force, the AFOSI has a global mission. Wherever there are Air Force people or assets AFOSI is there. We have more than 170 worldwide locations, most located on Air Force installations. Some offices are located in large cities such as New York, Chicago, London and Tokyo.

Opportunities exist to specialize in areas such as technical services (video, photographic, and communications surveillance), computer crime, and polygraph.

A complete background investigation, application package, and interview must be completed, therefore potential applicants should begin the process five to 10 months prior to DEROS. A year is not too early to start paperwork.

Basic requirements are:

- *E-5 (E-4 with line number) through E-6
- *Less than 12 years of service
- Not less than a 4 or 5 rating on last five performance reports

- **No prior infractions with the law

- No current UIF

* Waiverable if applicant has desired foreign language or technical skills

** This is relative. A speeding ticket is okay. Call for more information.

Local applications are processed through AFOSI Det 250. We'd be more than happy to sit down with you and explain the mission of AFOSI and the application process in more detail. Call Ext. 24180 or send an e-mail to set up a time.



action lines

The Action Line is your tool to help Team Lajes. However, before you call, try to resolve your issue through the appropriate agency. You may remain anonymous, but for a direct answer, please leave your name and phone number. Additionally, answers to anonymous inquiries will normally not be published. Use the following numbers to help solve problems through base agencies.

Family support	23122
AAFES manager	23209
Commissary	26124
Hospital	23615

Civil engineer	26113
Housing	26251
Chaplain	23411
CE customer service desk	23335
Security police	26114
Telephone service desk	119
Supply squadron	23832
TMO inbound	25168
TMO outbound	24213
Personnel flight	23612
Services	21322/
beeper 169-1174	

Action Line 24240



Col. Rod Gibson, 65th Air Base Wing Commander, presents a plaque to Carolyn Harris, honoring her as the wing Spouse of the Year. The presentation was made Monday afternoon.

More country music

Is it possible to have country music played 24-hours a day on the AM radio station? It seems country music is never played on a regular schedule. People who enjoy rock and roll have access to it 24-hours a day on FM and I feel those of us who enjoy country music should have the opportunity.

Thanks for the opportunity for our Det. 6 personnel to explain radio programming practices. Here's their answer. The music and news formats aired on AFN are determined by data gathered using surveys and other industry recognized tools. Our most recent survey at Lajes was conducted by a prestigious stateside media consultant and revealed that the two most important reasons our audience tuned to AFN was for music and news. Breaking down the music category, the top vote-getter was 'current top-40' followed by 'hits from the lates '70s and 80s' and "soft rock/adult contemporary."

"New country hits" placed sixth among audience favorites, while "classic country" failed to crack the top 10. These results are similar to those found by worldwide AFRTS surveys as well as the stateside Arbitron ratings which are the equivalent of TV's Nielsen ratings. In the news arena, data shows that nearly as many people tune to AFN for news as they music.

After reviewing the data available, we agree that some adjustments are in order. The good news for country music fans is that we'll be adding an hour of "hot country" each weekday from 2 to 3 p.m. on Island 96 FM. The bad news for country fans is we will be reducing our country format on The Bull - 1503 AM, which was previously seven hours each weekday and a staggering 19 hours on weekends.

We'll be replacing several of the early morning hours on 1503AM with news programming and attempt to provide a wider variety of music formats throughout the day. On Island 96 FM we'll continue to maintain a "top-40" format during the morning hours, while adding a mid-day show consisting of hits from the '70s and '80s.

In addition, our afternoon show will shift from a hard rock format to a combination top-40/adult contemporary. We'll be publishing a new schedule shortly, so no matter what your favorite radio programming, you'll be sure to know exactly when to tune in.

Thanks for the question and remember, if you don't like the radio, there is plenty of pro wrestling on channel 8.

CROSSROADS

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized weekly publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the Crossroads are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is provided, edited and prepared by the Public Affairs Office of Lajes Field, Air Combat Command.

Editorial offices are located in Bldg T-100, Room 207, Ext. 23347.

News, features, art and photography are solicited from readers, however, the editor reserves the right to edit copy and judge if submissions are newsworthy or appropriate for the newspaper.

The deadline for submission is one week prior to the publication date.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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www.lajes.af.mil/pa/65thpa.htm

ESC hosts bazaar Saturday

Commentary by
Robyn O'Dell
Enlisted spouses club

Portuguese and American artisans and craftsmen will gather in the community center Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the 5th Annual Spring Bazaar.

During this festival, sponsored by the enlisted spouses club, there will be local items such as hand-embroidered linens, baskets, painted tiles, wood items, pottery and other assorted island crafts.

America crafters will have such

favorites as cross-stitch, cloth rabbits, dream catchers, personalized mugs, toile painted items, stained glass, paintings and charcoal sketches. The ESC will also sponsor a raffle of several wood items.

Also, look for the ESC country kitchen. Stocked with fresh, homemade baked goods, this is the place to indulge in a favorite sweet. If all the shopping has worked up a larger appetite, there will be food vendors on hand serving hot dogs, nachos, barbecue and drinks.

Don't forget the Easter bunny who will be hopping into Lajes

early to take photos with the kids.

A cashier will be on hand to cash checks and money raised from the bazaar benefit the ESC's charities and community projects. Craftsmen are asked to donate 10 percent of their sales to the ESC. Last year's profits benefited the America Red Cross, family support center, American youth activities, child development center and many others.

Due to safety regulations no strollers allowed in the building during the festival. For more information, call Ext. 28237.



Ed's back with his look at the Azorean Islands. This week... Pico.

The island of Pico, or mountain island, so named for the impressive mountain that emerges from it (pico means peak in Portuguese), is the second largest island of the archipelago with a surface area of approximately 174 square miles and a population of more than 15,000 inhabitants.

It is the highest mountain of the Azores and Portugal with an altitude of 7,711 feet culminating in the crater of Pico Grande, where stands the volcanic cone of Pico Pequeno or Piquinho. The climb to the top of Pico is difficult, but is compensated by the breathtaking view of Pico and other islands of the central group.

The island's settlement started around the year 1460 when natives of northern Portugal arrived after colonizing the islands of Terceira and Graciosa. Its population initially concentrated on the growing of wheat and woad, a dye-yielding plant exported to Flanders, but the production of wine and fishing soon joined these activities. In 1723 the village of Madalena was raised to the status of town, confirming its economic importance as the port ensuring connections with Faial and as a residential area for the owners of the vineyards in the area. By hard work, the lava beds were turned into vineyards. The **verdelho** wine of Pico has gained international fame over the centuries and it was highly appreciated in several countries, namely, England, the U.S. and Russia where at one time it reached the table of the Czars.

The presence of American whalers in the Azorean waters around the 18th century introduced a new activity - whale hunting - which for many years presented an important source of wealth for the island's economy. Whale hunting lasted until 1985 at which time it was banned by the European Union. Now Pico is an island experiencing economic development made possible by the building of new ports and an airport.

The island is divided into three municipalities or districts: Madalena; São Roque and Lajes. Other villages around the island that deserve a visit are: Bandeiras, a village connected with the production of wine; Santo Antonio, Prainha do Norte, the second settlement founded on the northern coast of the island; Santo Amaro, a small village and the main shipbuilding yard in the Azores, still using the old manual techniques; Piedade, the village located at the most eastern point of the island which features a panoramic view of the ocean; Calheta do Nesquim, an important old port and typical base for whale hunting; Ribeiras; São Mateus, one of the

ask Ed

Sr. Eduardo Lima
community relations adviser
limae@abw65.lajes.af.mil



oldest villages in the island, features an imposing and beautiful church; Candelaria, etc.

In the town of Lajes do Pico, the center of the old whaling tradition, one can find the Whalers' Museum. Recently established and the only one of its kind in Portugal, it holds a marvelous collection of scrimshaw made from whale's tooth and bone, a whaling canoe and other objects connected with activity.

Although whale hunting has been banned, the town of Lajes still plays an important role in the whaling tradition, namely through whale watching. This is a recent activity attracting hundreds of enthusiasts who like to see sperm whales up close. Each year, the town of Lajes do Pico celebrates the "Whalers' week" during the last week of August in honor of our Lady of Lourdes and old whalers.

The vineyards of Pico are also very peculiar. A maze of stone walls form small fields in which the grapevines are found. In this way the farmers are able to get rid of the many rocks in the soil and form a shelter for their crops.

The crystal blue ocean surrounding the island is an invitation to fishing, snorkeling and observation of underwater lava formations, flora and fauna. Swimming is possible in several areas along the coast. The countless rabbits that inhabit the island can also provide hours and hours of pleasant hunting almost all year round. Hunters will also have a chance to aim their rifles at pigeons, partridges and quails during the hunting season.

Like other islands, Pico also celebrates the Holy Ghost festival during its proper season. Other important festivals during the summer time include the festivities of Bom Jesus in the village of São Mateus, Santa Maria Madalena in the town of Madalena and the "Grapes Harvesting Week" in the second week of September. For more information about this beautiful island visit the following web site: <http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/2140/pico.html>

Jazz concerts in Angra

Saturday - 9:30 p.m., Nana Sousa Dias Quintet

March 21 - 9:30 p.m., ad Libitum

March 28 - 9:30 p.m., Bernardo Moreira Quartet

All concerts are held at the headquarters of the theater group "Alpendre" near the top of main street. Call Ed for details.



Giving the people What they want! Island 96 FM



AHH, THE LIFE OF A DISC JOCKEY. PLAYING RECORDS, TAKING REQUESTS, BEING THE FIRST VOICE PEOPLE HEAR IN THE MORNING... GETTING UP AT 4 A.M. AND, BECAUSE YOUR JOB REQUIRES IT, TRYING TO BE CLEVER FOR FOUR HOURS AT A STRETCH.

SSgt. Rosaire Bushey
Editor

The life of a DJ may sound like a pretty sweet deal for most people, but it's not all laughs and gags and "Good Morning Vietnam" style antics. In fact, ask any member of the radio section at Detachment 6, Air Force News, and they'll tell you it's almost never like it seems.

"It's not that it's boring up here, certainly not," said SSgt. George Maurer, NCOIC of the radio section. "But it's a job like any other and there is a very serious side to what we do. The real challenge is making it sound like it's all fun and games - that's why people listen."

For most people radio is synonymous with music, but that's a bit misleading. Airman First Class Fernando Fernandez, Maurer's partner on the morning show, knows if nothing else, the information is more important than the music, but probably not why people tune in.



"It's a balancing act," he said. "What we're concerned with more than anything else is the information we get out to people - what people listen to the radio for is generally music. We have to provide both in doses that keep their interest and attention."

For Maurer the goal has been to play good music but focus on command information. "We want to know what's going on and to do that, we need people to come forward and let us know what's happening. There are dozens of clubs and organizations on this base and all of them want people to attend or participate in their events - we need to be able to tell their story."

To help people get their message out the station has begun an 'open door' policy of sorts. "If we get a call during a show and someone has an event they want to talk about, we'll do our best to accomodate them," Maurer said. "We're trying to get more people on the air and talking about their events - it not only gets them publicity it makes the show a useful tool for more than entertainment."

But as many people see the radio as primarily an entertaining medium, the station has four distinct sounds during the day. From 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Maurer and Fernandez ply the airwaves with adult top-40, all the news from base they can handle and a little bit of fish trivia. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., A1C Kimberly Jacks takes off on a '70s and '80s hit music retro show and lets people play 'guess the song lyric.'

"The lyric game has been a great success so far," she said. "We've gotten a lot of help from Andy Louder and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service in coming up with prizes for the radio station," Jacks said, "and we're working with the 65th Services Division for additional stuff."

Stuff is good - especially in the radio game and the changes are paying off. Previously, according to Jacks, the mid-day show used to get two or three request calls during an entire four-hour shift. Now, she says, seven to eight of the about 12 songs played every hour are requests.

"I think the opening up of the microphone during the morning has carried through into the later shows," she said. "A lot more people seem to be actually listening to the radio now as opposed to just having it on as background noise or something to keep people entertained while they're on hold."

Country music fans can find a home on Island 96 FM from 2 to 3 p.m. with SrA. Tom Malaglowitz and A1C Carianne Jodoin takes over from 3 to 5 p.m. with top 40.

"Hopefully we're getting something for everyone on the air," Maurer said. "We can't please everyone all the time, but we have to try and we'll tweak and work things out as we find what works and what doesn't. So

far, I think we're on the right trail with our approach of trying to become a part of the community fabric rather than just a disembodied voice spewing information. People have a story to tell and it's a lot more effective if we let them tell it; that's what we're trying to do."

The Kinks said "Give the people what they want." They probably didn't think at the time it would include fish trivia. Which, by the way, if you play be aware, that not all the answers are necessarily fish - crustaceans and mollusks have been the answers.

"The fun of the job comes from seeing a plan succeed. When you start getting the feedback and when you get a formula that works, the early mornings come easier. But being clever still takes far more than the recommended daily allowance of caffeine, sugar and the orange stuff in the middle of a Butterfinger."



SSgt. George Maurer, opposite page and left with A1C Fernando Fernandez, is the NCOIC of the radio section at Detachment 6, Air Force News. Fernandez, above, is co-host of the morning show and uses a computer to find particular songs or artists in the station's huge music inventory.

Maurer who believes that the best information in the world doesn't mean a thing if people don't listen.



Photos/Guido Melo



People First

Three retirement plans, three formulas

With three retirement plans in effect, questions often arise about what the 1980 and 1986 changes to retirement benefits were and why they were made.

The National Security Act of 1947 created the Air Force and made Army retirement laws at that time applicable to Air Force people. Army retirement laws for enlisted people allowed for retirement at 20 years of service under the Armed Forces Retirement Act of 1945.

Starting with the enactment of the Army and Air Force Vitalization and Retirement Equalization Act of 1948, officers were allowed to retire with a minimum of 20 years vs. 30 years.

The military retirement system has changed over the years; however, there are now three retirement systems in effect: Final Basic Pay, High 3 and the Military Retirement Reform Act, or MMRA.

Final Basic Pay applies to people who entered a uniformed service before Sept. 8, 1980. Under this plan, at 20 years of service, airmen are eligible for 50 percent of their base pay.

To reduce the federal budget, Congress and the Department of Defense modified the Military Retirement System twice during the 1980s.

The Department of Defense Authorization Act of 1981, enacted Sept. 8, 1980, authorized the High 3 retirement plan. Those who entered the service between Sept. 8, 1980, and July 31, 1986, are eligible for 50 percent of the average of their highest three years of their base pay.

The MMRA was signed into law July 1, 1986. Under this act, people who entered the service Aug. 1, 1986, or after receive 40 percent of the average of their highest three years of their base pay until age 62. This equates to roughly 36 percent of the member's base pay just prior to retirement, because of the effects of averaging the highest three years of base pay.

For example, a master sergeant with dependents and 20 years of service earns about \$40,000 a year in pay and allowances while on active duty; base pay represents about \$28,000 of this amount. Once retired, this master sergeant will receive about \$10,000 a year or roughly 36 percent of base pay under MMRA.

In comparison, a master sergeant retiring under the Final Basic Pay Plan will receive about \$14,000 a year (50 percent of base pay), and a master sergeant retiring under the High-3 Plan will earn about \$13,000 a year (46 percent of base pay).

Air Force personnel officials emphasize the positive aspects of MMRA. They note that airmen eligible for retirement under MMRA who stay on active duty beyond 20 years will increase their retired pay by 3.5 percent for each additional year of service up to a maximum of 75 percent of base pay for 30 years service.

This, according to the personnel officials, compares favorably with the 2.5 percent per year increase allowed by the Final Basic Pay and High-3 Plans. In addition, when weighing the value of retirement benefits under MMRA, retired pay is increased at age 62 to 50 percent of base pay (vs. the 40 percent at retirement) for retirees with 20 years of active-duty service.

Those who want to calculate projected retirement pay can contact their local military personnel flight. Another source is the Air Force Personnel Center home page at <http://www.afpc.af.mil/>. Click on Retirements/Separations, then Estimates On-Line where customers can do their own informal calculations in less than five minutes.

DOD establishes anthrax vaccination homepage

KELLY AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — The Department of Defense has set up a web site to provide information on the anthrax vaccination program. The site is located at http://www.defenselink.mil/other_info/protection.html. The web site contains news releases, briefings and official policy on the force protection decision announced by the secretary of defense in December.

The anthrax vaccine is to be given to the 36,000 U.S. servicemembers now serving in Southwest Asia beginning this week. The Army is the executive agent for the program, headed by Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Ronald Blanck. The mandatory immunizations will begin this summer for all other active-duty and reserve component service members.

Promotions to E-8 reach 4-year high

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — The Air Force reached a four-year high in its selection rate for promotion to senior master sergeant as the service selected 1,626 of 20,439 eligibles for promotion, a 7.96 percent selection rate.

The rate marks the fourth consecutive year there's been an increase in the promotion rate. In 1997, the Air Force had a 7.56 percent selection rate, preceded by 1996's 7.31 percent rate and 1995's selection rate of 7.24 percent.

This year's rate is a dramatic increase in the promotion rate when compared to the 1994 promotion rate -- just 4.62 percent. Officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here say as the current drawdown winds down, promotion percentages are heading up. And, they add, they are optimistic promotion rates to senior master sergeant will remain above the Total Objective Plan for Career Airmen Personnel drawdown minimum promotion rate of 6 percent.

The Cycle 98E8 Senior Master Sergeant Evaluation Board convened Feb. 2 through 20 at AFPC to evaluate individual records of master sergeants eligible for promotion.

The average total score of selectees during the cycle was 670.54. Average selectee score breakdowns included:

- 37.57 points, time in grade
- 19.96 points, time in service
- 134.98 points, performance reports
- 17.83 points for decorations
- 66.59 points, U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination
- 393.62 board score.

The average selectee has 5.21 years time in grade and 18.83 years time in service.

Those selected will be promoted to senior master sergeant between April 1, and March 1, 1999.

The complete list of senior master sergeant selections is posted on the AFPC home page at noon, CST. The address is <http://www.afpc.af.mil>. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)



Sports briefs

Golf tournament

In support of American Red Cross Month, there will be a four-person select shot golf tournament March 27. Call Ext. 23516 to sign up or for more information.

Aquaknights of Atlantis

The Aquaknights of Atlantis Dive Club is open Monday and Friday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. An open water class starts March 30 for those who want to learn how to dive. Membership meetings are the first Wednesday of each month. The club is located on top of Santa Rita Hill in Bldg. T-249. For more information, call Ext. 23294 or 23327.

Healthy kids

The following activities are taking place during the month of April to promote healthy kids.

- April 6 - The youth program will hold an afternoon aerobics class for kids.
- April 7 - There will be an island site tour which will incorporate lessons about the environment and benefits of being outdoors.
- April 8 - Fitness tips for youth during an additional supertime.
- April 9 - During supertime, kids will be discussing nutrition and doing a healthy cooking activity.
- April 10 - Healthy Kids Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Included will be a discussion and demonstration from the fire department and security forces; a discussion about child abuse from family advocacy; and a talk by the safety office. The Family Fun Olympics will also be held.



Photo/SrA. Sharon Hooper

Couch potato fitness

A patron shows that fitness doesn't have to come at the expense of missing a favorite TV show. The fitness center has an array of aerobic and anaerobic exercise equipment including bikes, treadmills and rowing machines.

Don't feed the (stray) animals

SrA. Kristi Brinning
Public health journeyman

The animals we are referring to are the ones commonly seen on the island of Terceira such as cows, donkeys, horses, dogs, cats, etc.

Even though they look friendly, they're still animals and potential carriers of disease. Feeding animals teaches them to rely on you as a food source, and they become more tame and at ease with humans. This greatly increases close human contact, rummaging through garbage areas, and interaction with children.

The increased interaction often results in an animal bite or scratch. Supervisors at all levels should discourage animal contact among their employees.

A few common sense tips will protect you and your family from stray animals.

- Avoid contact with strays; never attempt to feed or handle them.
- Do not bring stray animals in or around your home; you have no idea of their vaccination or health status.
- Ensure doors, windows, and basements are secure and keep the outside of your home free of debris.

- Secure trash and any pet food stored outdoors to avoid access by animals.

• Keep your own animals safe too; have them vaccinated – including dogs, cats, and selected livestock. The veterinary clinic can answer questions about rabies immunizations (required prior to PCS) and other required and recommended shots.

Know what to do if an animal (stray or not) bites you:

1. Wash the wound with warm, soapy water.
2. If the animal is a pet, get the owner's name and address, and ask for proof of rabies vaccination.
3. Report to the acute care clinic for medical follow-up.
4. All American-owned will be required to be quarantined for 10 days.

Even though the Azores is considered a rabies free environment, there are many strays and everyone, especially children, should be aware of the hazards of touching or feeding animals.

For additional information on this or any other public health topic, call public health at Ext. 23464.



TRADE WINDS

Saturday

Lunch: Hungarian goulash, roast turkey, pasta fagioli

Dinner: Creole spaghetti, spinach lasagna, yankee pot roast

Sunday

Lunch: Hamburger parmesan, grilled ham slice, baked and fried chicken

Dinner: Bratwurst, roast fresh ham, turkey spinach delight

Monday

Lunch: Peixe assado, meatloaf, curried chicken with brown rice

Dinner: Turkey curry, jaegerschnitzel, healthy heart chili macaroni

Tuesday

Lunch: Spaghetti, chicken alcatra, gingered pepper steak

Dinner: Sukiyaki, szechwan chicken, manicotti

Wednesday

Lunch: Oriental steak, salsicha a espanol, hot and spicy chicken

Dinner: Barbecue beef cubes, oven fried fish, broccoli and turkey casserole

Thursday

Lunch: Pimentoes rocheados, roast fresh ham, spaghetti with tomato sauce

Dinner: Salisbury steak, roast turkey, herbed baked spinach

March 20

Lunch: Yakisoba, rojos, baked and fried chicken

Dinner: Swedish meatballs, baked garlic fish, vegetable stuffed peppers

(Note: Menu subject to change without notice.

Daily hotline menu:

Ext. 24248.)

Briefs

ESC spring bazaar

The enlisted spouses club will have their spring bazaar Saturday at the community center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Study skills course

There will be a study skills test taking course Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bldg. T-400, Room 221. The course is free. To sign up, call the education office at Ext. 23355.

NCOA nominations needed

The Lajes chapter of the Noncommissioned Officer Association will meet Monday at 4 p.m. at the club. Nominations will be taken for chapter officers and all members or people who are interested in joining, are invited to attend. The chapter is open to enlisted members of all branches of the service. Call Ext. 22369 for more information.

Position open

City Colleges of Chicago is accepting applications for the following part-time positions: field representative and test administrator. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and

one to three years of general work experience, preferably in an education environment. Applications can be picked up from the CCC office in Bldg. T-426 and will be accepted until April 10. For more information call, Pat Conley at Ext. 23375.

Women's luncheon

The Federal Women's luncheon is scheduled for March 20 at noon in the club ballroom. The theme is: Living the Legacy of Women's Rights. The speaker is Pat Camella, Vice Council, U.S. Embassy, Ponta Delgada. The menu is baked Portuguese chicken or sautéed vegetable medley with rice. The cost is \$8 for club members or \$10 for non club members. For tickets people should see their unit FWP representatives. They are: Chris Jackson, CES; Maj. Kimberly Cox, MG; Fatima Homem, Trans; MSgt. Leanne Amundson, SUPS; SrA. Michelle Amos, SVD; TSgt. Jordana Jacobs, AFNews; Louise Williams, CONS; TSgt. Karen Ernst, AMSS; Kathy Peters, ABW/T-100; MSgt. Deb Huntley, MSS; and Betty Palmer, CS. Call Anne

Continued on Page 11

Call Ext. 22369



busheyr@abw65.lajes.af.mil

- Mens left handed golf clubs. Brand new, still in box, Wilson Pro-Technique golf clubs, 1-3 Woods, 3-PW irons. Graphite shafts, asking \$220 OBO. Call Ext. 28417 after 5 p.m.

- Cottage, \$8,000. Land rent 9,000 escudos. Two bedrooms, 1 bath, fenced backyard. H-121 Santa Rita Hill. Call Ext. 28000 or 23689.

- Cottage H-184, single unit, fenced yard. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, exterior shutters, new light fixtures, 3 ceiling fans, curtains, blinds, and rugs included. Call Shelley at Ext. 24133 or 28523 after 6 p.m.

- **FREE** - Orange male cat, neutered and declawed. Good family pet he comes with all accessories. Toys, food, litter, carrying cage and kitty bed. PCSing can't take Tigger with us. Call Ext. 25215 Monday through Friday or Ext. 28096 after 3 p.m.

- Molly needs a home. Medium size brown (beautifully marked) dog. Shots up-to-date, house broken, spayed. Ideal for a couple with older children. Gets along well with cats - she does everything but meow. If interested, call Ext. 28074 for more information.

- Car booster seat, \$18; boys 12" bicycle, \$20. Call Ext. 28026 after 5:30 p.m.

- Nearly new woman's mountain bike, excellent condition, \$100; manual treadmill with upper body conditioning, very good condition, \$75. Call Ext. 28402.

- **FREE** to a good home, 1-year old female mix breed dog. Has all shots and she's been spayed. Will include a large kennel, toys, bowls and other supplies. Call Ext. 28419 or 23625 and ask for Henry.

- Homeschool materials for grades one and two, math, Christian character, reading primers, phonics programs, phonics flashcards etc. If interested in these materials, or if you are interested in a homeschool curriculum fair, call Ext. 53535.

- Cottage H-156 Santa Rita. 4 bedrooms, 1 bath, large kitchen and master bedroom, dining/living rooms w/fireplace. Large fenced yard. Many renovations, basketball court, refrigerator, 2 dehumidifiers, ceiling fan. \$18,500. Call DP 25560 or HP 28911.

Classified ads run on a space available basis for two weeks.



Briefs *Continued from Page 10*

Saul, FWP manager, at Ext. 23143 for tickets or more information.

Test taking course

A study skills test taking course will be held Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bldg. T-400, Room 221. The course is free. Sign up at Education Center by calling Ext. 23355.

Chief induction

There will be an induction for new chief master sergeants March 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Top of the Rock Club. The ceremony will be a mess dress or formal dress affair. Everyone is welcome to attend. Reservations and dinner choices are needed by March 16. For more information, call Ext. 24133. The menu choices are prime rib or cherne.

SUM dinner

The 65th Contracting Squadron will host the next single, unaccompanied member's dinner March 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the chapel. The menu will be an Italian extravaganza.

Parenting class, group

- There will be a four-week evening

parenting class focusing on toddler issues beginning March 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the family support center.

- There will be a brown bag meeting of the single parent support group March 26 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the family support center.

For more information on either event, call Ext. 25177.

Locksmith available

The 65th Services Division now has a locksmith on contract. If you're locked out of your car or house, call the Mid-Atlantic Lodge at Ext. 23683 for service.

Field secretary needed

The American Red Cross is taking applications for the field secretary position until Tuesday. Applicants must have a resume and application. Call Ext. 23516 for more information.

Orphanage party

The officers wives club will have a party at the Maria Gorretti Orphanage March 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to attend and should meet at the club parking lot at 1 p.m. Volunteers are also needed to provide baked goods, paper products, candy or drink. People who can help should call Linda Mills at Ext. 542729.

OWC luncheon

There will be an OWC luncheon Thursday at 11 a.m. at the club. The luncheon will be presented by the U.S. Forces Azores and nominations for the board of directors will be taken. People should reserve a space by Tuesday by calling Ext. 28824 or 28437.

Hot dog sale

The Lajes First Sergeant's Council will have a hot dog sale Saturday in front of the upper exchange from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hot dogs will cost \$1 each. Drinks will also be available. Money raised will help support the base quarterly awards program.

Relationship enhancement

A relationship enhancement class will begin March 23 in the hospital conference room. The class will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Couples will learn how to enhance their marriage. Call Ext. 25177 to sign up.

Provider luncheon

The 65th Logistics Group will sponsor a professional provider of the year luncheon March 30 at 11:30 a.m. at the club. Guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Dennis Haines, Air Combat Command Director of Logistics. The cost is \$7 and tickets are available through

Tax tip

Rental property is taxable income

1st Lt. Dane McKenzie
Base tax advisor

If you are renting out a home in the States, you will need to file Schedule E. Your rental income and expenses are reported on the appropriate lines of the form. If this is the first year you are renting the home, you need to allocate (based on months) the mortgage interest and property taxes between Schedules A (Itemized Deductions) and E (Supplemental Income and Loss).

A large, often overlooked expense is depreciation. You are allowed to recover the cost of the house (not land) over a 27.5-year period. Report the depreciation on Form 4562 and on Schedule E. You may not elect to not depreciate the property to avoid having a higher gain when you sell the rental.

Sale of a rental home is considered sale of a business asset and is reported on Form 4797.

Different rules apply if the house is not being rented out for profit (such as to a relative or friend for less than fair rental value) or if it is being temporarily rented out while it is actively on the market to be sold.

If either situation applies to you, or if you have any other tax questions, contact the tax center at Ext. 22420 or 22421.

AFI 36-2903

Tip of the Week

Courtesy - Lajes First Sergeant's Council

Bracelets are a nice touch in the uniform but they must be conservative and no wider than one inch. Oh yeah, they can't present a safety hazard and you can only wear one.

Stay safe, stay happy, and most of all stay in standards. Remember, you represent us all.

Protestant schedule

Saturday — 6:18 p.m. -

Lutheran

Sunday — 9 a.m.

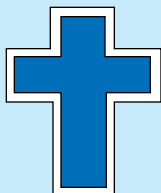
Evangelical service

Noon Gospel service

Catholic schedule

Saturday — 5 p.m. Mass

Sunday — 10:30 a.m. Mass



Thought for the Week

For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me.

Psalms 31:3

SMSgt. Franklin Smith at Ext. 21177. Tickets must be purchased by March 25.

Glass can be recycled

The Lajes recycling program is booming. Striving to better serve the base, the environmental flight has found a market for glass.

Beginning Monday Lino's Recycling will begin collecting glass. Glass will be picked up at military facilities - offices and dorms - on Fridays in conjunction with aluminum cans.

Patrons are asked to put glass mixed with aluminum cans in traditional can bins. For military family housing, collection will be on Tuesday and Thursday. Residents are asked to bag all glass containers and put it in the blue recycle bins.

For the safety of workers, do not recycle broken glass containers or glass panes.

For more information, comments or complaints, call Orlando Lima at Ext. 26507.



Movies

All show times are at 7 p.m. unless indicated. Movies are subject to change without notice. Call Ext. 23302 for information. (V= violence; S=sex; D=drug use; L=language)



Saturday

Mr. Magoo

PG (L) - 3 p.m.
85 min

American Werewolf in Paris

R (V•S) 99 min

- Leslie Nielsen and Kelly Lynch. A stolen gem lands in the hands of Mr. Magoo and while the thieves try to nab it back, he escapes - oblivious to the dangerous around him.
- Tom Everett Scott and Julie Delpy. An American college student saves a French woman attempting suicide. After an encounter with a werewolf, he experiences werewolf-life symptoms.

Sunday

Mouse Hunt

PG (L)
97 min

- Nathan Lane and Christopher Walken. Two brothers inherit a mansion worth a fortune, but first they have to rid the house of a pesky mouse.

Monday

Eve's Bayou

R (V•S)
105 min

- Samuel L. Jackson and Lynn Whitfield. On her Louisiana bayou, 10-year old Eve struggles to understand her family during a summer in the '60s. Her family copes with secrets while battling demons both visible and hidden.

Tuesday

Tomorrow Never Dies

PG-13 (V•S)
119 min

- Pierce Brosnan and Jonathan Pryce. The 18th installment of the 007 series.

Wednesday

Mr. Magoo

PG (L)
85 min

- See Saturday for details

Thursday

Flubber

PG (V•L)
83 min

- Robin Williams and Marcia Gay Harden. The absent minded professor discovers flubber and the gravity defying substance changes the lives of everyone around it.

March 20

For Richer or Poorer

PG-13 (L•S)
114 min

- Tim Allen and Kirstie Alley. A couple flees the good life when their account takes off with their cash. They end up in an Amish community.

SATURDAY

- 0030 Showbiz Today
- 0100 America's Funniest Videos
- 0130 College Basketball - NCAA Championships - First Round
- 0630 NBC Nightly News
- 0700 Puzzle Place
- 0730 Magic School Bus
- 0800 Darkwing Duck
- 0830 Sylvester and Tweety
- 0900 AAH! Real Monsters
- 0930 Eerie, Indiana
- 1000 New Explorers
- 1100 Statistically Speaking
- 1130 America's Family Kitchen
- 1200 Headline News
- 1230 Navy/Marine Corps News
- 1300 Fox NHL Hockey: Anaheim at Dallas
- 1600 WWF Superstars
- 1700 The Entertainers
- 1800 CBS College Basketball: NCAA Championships (Round 2)

SUNDAY

- 0000 CBS College Basketball: NCAA Championships (Round 2) Continued
- 0100 Saturday Night Live
- 0300 A Mother's Justice
- 0500 Headline News
- 0530 Hour of Power
- 0630 Center Street
- 0700 Coral Ridge
- 0730 Creflo Dollar
- 0800 Nightmare Ned
- 0830 Shakespeare: Animated Theater
- 0900 Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman
- 1000 Matilda
- 1200 Headline News
- 1230 Air Force TV News
- 1300 NHL Hockey - Buffalo at Pittsburgh
- 1600 JAG
- 1700 Hercules
- 1800 CBS College Basketball: NCAA Championships (Round 2)

MONDAY

- 0100 Headline News
- 0130 Wall Street Journal Report
- 0200 Computer Chronicles
- 0230 America's Black Forum
- 0300 Showtime at the Apollo
- 0400 Friday Night
- 0500 Meet the Press
- 0600 Headline News
- 0630 CNN/SI
- 0700 Sesame Street
- 0800 Busy World of Richard Scary
- 0830 Kiana Flex Appeal
- 0900 Oprah Winfrey
- 1000 Port Charles
- 1030 Guiding Light
- 1100 General Hospital
- 1200 Headline News
- 1230 Wheel of Fortune
- 1300 Today
- 1500 What a Mess
- 1530 The Mask
- 1600 Captain Planet
- 1630 Secret World of Alex Mack
- 1700 Jeopardy
- 1730 ESPNNews
- 1800 Headline News/News 8
- 1830 Navy Marine Corps News
- 1900 60 Minutes
- 2000 Murphy Brown
- 2030 Frasier
- 2100 New York Undercover
- 2200 Headline News/News 8
- 2230 Tonight Show with Jay Leno
- 2330 Late Show with Letterman

TUESDAY

- 0030 Showbiz Today
- 0100 Sneakers
- 0300 Bod of Lies
- 0500 Sesame Street
- 0600 Fraggle Rock
- 0630 Fitness Beach
- 0700 Sesame Street
- 0800 Fraggle Rock
- 0830 Fitness Beach
- 0900 Montel Williams
- 1000 Port Charles
- 1030 Guiding Light
- 1100 General Hospital
- 1200 Headline News
- 1230 Wheel Of Fortune
- 1300 Today
- 1500 Sports Illustrated for Kids
- 1530 All Dogs go to Heaven
- 1600 Bill Nye, Science Guy
- 1630 Saved by the Bell
- 1700 Jeopardy!
- 1730 ESPNNews
- 1800 Headline News/News 8
- 1830 CNN Showbiz Today
- 1900 Sliders
- 2000 Dead Calm
- 2200 Headline News/News 8
- 2230 Tonight Show With Jay Leno
- 2330 Late Show With David Letterman

WEDNESDAY

- 0030 Showbiz Today
- 0100 Unsolved Mysteries
- 0200 TNT NBA Basketball: Chicago at Indiana
- 0430 America's Funniest Videos
- 0500 Headline News
- 0530 ABC World News Tonight
- 0600 CNN/SI
- 0630 NBC Nightly News
- 0700 Sesame Street
- 0800 Sesame Special - Monster Hits
- 0830 Body Shaping
- 0900 Oprah Winfrey
- 1000 Port Charles
- 1030 Guiding Light
- 1100 General Hospital
- 1200 Headline News
- 1230 Wheel Of Fortune
- 1300 Today
- 1500 Where is Carmen San Diego
- 1530 Happily Ever After
- 1600 Power Rangers ZEO
- 1630 Hidden Temple
- 1700 Jeopardy!
- 1730 ESPNNews
- 1800 Headline News/News 8
- 1830 CNN Showbiz Today
- 1900 Moesha
- 1930 Home Improvement
- 2000 Beverly Hills 90210
- 2100 Melrose Place
- 2200 Headlines News/News 8
- 2230 Tonight Show with Jay Leno
- 2330 Late Show with Letterman

THURSDAY

- 0030 Showbiz Today
- 0100 America's Funniest Videos
- 0130 ESPN2 NHL Hockey: Montreal at NY Rangers
- 0430 America's Funniest Videos
- 0500 Headline News
- 0530 ABC World News Tonight
- 0600 CNN/SI
- 0630 NBC Nightly News
- 0700 Sesame Street
- 0800 Fraggle Rock
- 0830 Fitness Beach
- 0900 Montel Williams
- 1000 Port Charles
- 1030 Women of Country
- 1100 General Hospital
- 1200 Headline News
- 1230 Wheel Of Fortune
- 1300 Today
- 1500 Animaniacs
- 1530 Goof Troops
- 1600 Goosebumps
- 1630 Nick News
- 1700 Jeopardy
- 1730 ESPNNews
- 1800 Headline News/News 8
- 1830 Showbiz Today
- 1900 The Single Guy
- 1930 Seinfeld
- 2000 Caroline in the City
- 2030 Boston Common
- 2100 ER
- 2200 Headline News/News 8
- 2230 Tonight Show with Jay Leno
- 2330 Late Show with Letterman

March 13

- 0030 Showbiz Today
- 0100 America's Funniest Videos
- 0130 CBS College Basketball: NCAA Championships Reg Semi-Finals
- 0630 NBC Nightly News
- 0700 Sesame Street
- 0800 Sesame Special - Sing Silly
- 0830 Kiana Flex Appeal
- 0900 Oprah Winfrey
- 1000 Port Charles
- 1030 Guiding Light
- 1100 General Hospital
- 1200 Headline News
- 1230 Wheel Of Fortune
- 1300 Today
- 1500 Superman '96
- 1530 Taz Mania
- 1600 Global Guts
- 1630 Space Cases
- 1700 Jeopardy!
- 1730 ESPNNews
- 1800 Headline News/News 8
- 1830 CNN Showbiz Today
- 1900 Nick Freno
- 1930 Simpsons
- 2000 Star Trek Deep Space Nine
- 2100 X-Files
- 2200 Headline News/News 8
- 2230 Tonight Show with Jay Leno
- 2330 Late Show with Letterman